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Update on Executions in China

As of August 17, 1989

Seven people were sentenced this week to long jail terms, including one life sentence, in the northern Chinese city of Xian for crimes committed during riots following the April 22 memorial service for former party chief Hu Yaobang. Rui Chaoyang, a worker, received a life sentence for breaking into a government building, throwing stones at police, and smashing windows in a tourist bus. Zhang Bingbing, also a worker, got 16 years for arson and hooliganism. Five others received sentences ranging from three to 12 years.

Comment: Xian was one of a small number of cities where protests turned violent. People convicted of similar crimes have been sentenced to death in Beijing and several other cities where violence took place. One person in Xian apparently was executed earlier for his role in the riots. The low number of death sentences may be partly because no police were reported killed during the riots, although official press announced that 130 had been injured.

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